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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/708,373	CHAO, TZE-HSIANG	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Linh M. Nguyen	2816	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 12/15/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>01/19/06</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

This is a reply to the Applicant's amendment submitted on 12/15/2005. According to this amendment, claims 1-18 are currently presented in the instant application.

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Winston Hsu on 01/19/2006.

The Examiner's Amendment includes:

CLAIMS:

Claim 5, line 1, change "a" to --the--;

Claim 14, lines 6 and 13, replace "can be" with --being--;

line 20, change "signal" to --signals--;

Claim 15, line 3, change "the" (in front of "lock") to --a--;

In front of delay (at end of line), insert --first and second--;

Line 4, change "signal" to --signals--;

line 7, change "a" to --the--; and

Claim 18, line 19, change "the" (in front of "lock") to --a--;

In front of delay (at end of line), insert --first and second--;

Line 20, change "signal" to --signals--; and

line 23, change "a" to --the--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-18 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest:

a) A multi-stage delay clock generator, in which each delay cell is divided into a plurality of delay steps, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations, as called for in claims 1 and 14;

b) A method for generating a delay signal with a step of latching the delay cell according to the lock control signal, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations, as called for in claim 9;

c) A multi-stage delay clock generator, in which the control unit comprises a delay counter, responsive to the lock control signal, for generating the delay control signal, a plurality of multiplexers, responsive to the delay control signal, for outputting a select signal, and a plurality of latches, responsive to the select signal, for outputting a lock signal to the plurality of delay cells and to a subsequent multiplexer, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations, as called for in claim 16;

d) The multi-stage delay clock generator further comprises a delay offset electrically coupled to a last delay cell for generating an offset delay signal, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations, as called for in claim 17; and

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e) A multi-stage delay clock generator, in which the control unit includes a delay counter, responsive to a lock control signal, for generating the delay control signal, a plurality of multiplexers, responsive to the delay control signal, for outputting a select signal; and a plurality of latches, responsive to the select signal, for outputting a lock signal to the plurality of delay cells and to a subsequent multiplexer, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations, as called for in claim 18.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linh M. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1749. The examiner can normally be reached on Alternate Fri, Monday - Thursday from 7:00 to 4:30.

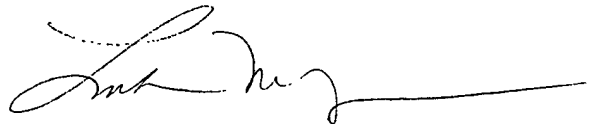
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan can be reached on (571) 272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Linh M. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2816

LMN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linh M. Nguyen', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.